Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

17. (Withdrawn) A method of treating an occluded vessel with a stent, comprising:
routing a delivery catheter having the stent mounted or restrained thereon to a position proximal to the diseased section of the vessel wherein the stent includes:
a core having an outer surface,
a first portion capable of increasing the visibility of the core to *in-vivo* viewing methods, and
a barrier on the outer surface of the device so that the first portion is isolated from a patient's blood;
deploying the stent from the delivery catheter; and
expanding the stent into abutment against the interior lining of the diseased vessel so as to provide a support mechanism to prevent closure of the vessel,
wherein a portion of the core contacts the vessel.

18. (Currently Amended) A ~~device used in vivo~~ stent comprising:
a core having a first composition;
a first ~~portion~~ layer on the core, the first layer having a second composition different than the first composition, the second composition capable of increasing the visibility of the core to *in-vivo* viewing methods; and
a barrier on the outer surface of the ~~device~~ stent so that the first ~~portion~~ layer is isolated from a patient's blood,
wherein the barrier comprises an oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Cr, Ta, and Al.

19. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 18, wherein the visibility increasing means comprises a radio-opaque layer disposed on at least a portion of the outer surface of the core.

20. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 19, wherein the means for establishing a barrier on the outer surface of the device comprises an outer layer disposed on at least a portion

of the outer surface of the radio-opaque layer to form a barrier layer between the radio-opaque layer and the patient's blood.

21. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 20, wherein the outer layer is made from an oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Cr, Ta, and Al.

22. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 20, wherein the outer layer is made from a nitride of a metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Cr, Ta, and Al.

23. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 20, wherein the outer layer is made from a carbide of a metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Cr, Ta, and Al.

24. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 18, wherein the barrier comprises an outer layer surrounding at least a portion of the core to form a barrier layer between the core and the patient's blood.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A ~~device used in vivo~~ stent comprising:

a core having a first composition;

a first ~~portion~~ layer on the core, the first layer having a second composition different than the first composition, the second composition capable of increasing the visibility of the core to *in-vivo* viewing methods; and

a barrier on the outer surface of the ~~device~~ stent so that the first ~~portion~~ layer is isolated from a patient's blood,

wherein the barrier comprises a nitride of a metal selected from the group consisting of Cr, Ta and A1.

27. (Currently Amended) A ~~device used in vivo~~ stent comprising:

a core having a first composition;

a first ~~portion~~ layer on the core, the first layer having a second composition different than the first composition, the second composition capable of increasing the visibility of the core to *in-vivo* viewing methods; and

a barrier on the outer surface of the ~~device~~ stent so that the first ~~portion~~ layer is isolated from a patient's blood,

wherein the barrier comprises a carbide of a metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Cr, Ta and V.

28. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 24, wherein the outer surface of the outer layer includes a therapeutic agent.

29. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 24, wherein the outer surface of the outer layer is textured.

30. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 29, wherein the textured outer surface is adapted for receiving a therapeutic agent to be delivered during use.

31. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 30, wherein the structure of the textured surface is selected from the group consisting of micro-pores, grooves, and cross-hatched lines.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 18, wherein the first ~~portion~~ layer includes a pre-selected percentage of the core being a radio-opaque element.

34. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 18, wherein the core is an alloy comprising a pre-selected percentage of radio-opaque element so that the visibility of the core to *in-vivo* viewing methods is increased.

35. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 34, wherein the percentage is approximately 70 percent.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein a portion of the first portion contacts the vessel.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the first portion is surrounded by the core and the barrier.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the first portion does not completely surround the core.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the barrier comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a nitride, an oxide, and a carbide.

42. (Previously presented) The device of claim 26, wherein the barrier comprises a therapeutic agent.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein the barrier comprises a therapeutic agent.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)